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A LIST OF SNAKES FROM THE ISLAND OF POLILLO, P. I.,  
WITH DESCRIPTIONS OF A NEW GENUS AND  
TWO NEW SPECIES.<sup>1</sup>

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**Python reticulatus** (Schneider), Nos. 811, 824, 825, 826.

Four specimens, from 0.9 to 2.5 meters in length.

**Natrix spilogaster** Boie, No. 808.

**Cyclocorus lineatus** (Reinhardt), Nos. 809, 810.

**HAPLONODON**<sup>2</sup> gen. nov.

Maxillary teeth in two series, separated by a short interspace; the posterior teeth of each series largest, 14 or 15 in all. Anterior end of maxilla bent slightly inward.

Anterior mandibular teeth enlarging to the fourth, followed by smaller teeth of equal size. Head distinct from neck. Eye moderate, pupil vertically elliptic. Body slender, slightly compressed; tail long. Scales smooth, in 17 longitudinal rows, without apical pits; subcaudals in two rows.

<sup>1</sup> Contribution from the Biological Laboratory, Bureau of Science, Manila, P. I.

<sup>2</sup> ἀπλός, single; ῥωδός, toothless.

*Haplonodon philippinensis* sp. nov. [Plate I.]

The anterior end of the maxillary is curved inward but slightly. The maxillary teeth are arranged in three series; the eight or nine anterior increase in size from the first to the last; after a short interspace come three small teeth, followed by three which are much larger, laterally compressed, and almost fang-like. There is no interspace between the last tooth of the middle series and the first one of the posterior series. The four anterior mandibular teeth increase in size to the fourth and are considerably larger than the remaining ones, which are all of about equal size.



Maxilla of *Haplonodon philippinensis*.  $\times 6$ .

Eye moderate, pupil vertically elliptic. Body slender, slightly compressed; tail long; a well-defined keel along each side of the belly and tail; subcaudals in two rows. Scales smooth, arranged in longitudinal rows, without apical pits; the vertebral and lateral rows are not noticeably larger than the others; scales in 17 rows; ventrals 203; anal entire; subcaudals 95+ (the tip of the tail is broken off). Rostral considerably broader than deep, its upper point entering deeply between the internasals, the portion visible from above being equal to one-third of its distance from the frontal; nostril quite large, in a single concave nasal; internasals much shorter and narrower than praefrontals; frontal almost as broad as long, twice as wide as the supraoculars, measuring each on the line joining the middle of the eyes; much shorter than the parietals, a little longer than its distance from the point of the rostral; loreal about three times as long as broad, entering the eye; one small praecular above the loreal, nearly reaching the frontal; two postoculars; temporals 2+2; nine upper labials, fourth and fifth entering the eye, seventh and eighth largest and of equal size; five lower labials in contact with the anterior chin-shields, which are longer and broader than the posterior.

The dorsal surface of the body and tail are crossed by 79 dark brown bands, separated by narrow bands of white finely dotted with brown. The edges of the latter bands are pure white, which outlines the darker and broader bands very distinctly and prettily. In the dorsal portions of the lighter bands the brown dots are often confluent, producing a grayish brown color. The dots are finer and more separated toward the ventral surface. The ventral portions of most of the brown bands are narrowly separated from the dorsal parts by fine white lines. A large brown spot lies upon each lateral end of most of the ventral scales; the ventral surface of the head and body is white. Brown dots become increasingly numerous on the lower surface as the anus is approached; the lower surface of the tail is closely covered with brown dots. The upper surface

of the head is very dark dull brown, almost black, adorned by a reticulate pattern of fine white lines. The centers and lower edges of the upper labial scales are white, their adjoining edges brown. All the scales are extremely smooth and glossy. The colors did not change upon preservation of the specimen in formalin.

This snake seems to be very rare. The natives to whom it was shown had never seen it before, and none of them knew a native name for it.

*List of specimens of Haplonodon philippinensis sp. nov.*

Museum.	Number.	Sex.	Locality.	When collected.	Collector.	Scale rows.	Ventrals.	Anal.	Subcaudals.	Temporals.	Supralabials.	Total length.	Length of tail.
Bureau of Science.	883	Male	Polillo.	Oct. 1909.	C. Canzonizado.	17	203	1	95+	2+2	9	mm. 0.800	mm. 0.196

This species combines characters of both Ophites (*Lycodon*) and *Dinodon*, and might easily represent an intermediate genus. It differs from *Ophites* in the lesser inward curvature of the anterior end of the maxilla, the greater number of anterior maxillary teeth, the small number of middle maxillary teeth, abruptly succeeded by three greatly enlarged posterior teeth, and by the gradual and lesser enlargement of the four anterior mandibular teeth, which are followed by small teeth without an interspace. It differs from *Dinodon* in having only a single interspace between the maxillary teeth, that between the last enlarged anterior tooth and the first small middle tooth. The tail is also longer in proportion to the body than in any species of *Dinodon*. It differs from both genera in the absence of apical pits.

***Elaphe erythrura*** (Dumeril & Bibron), No. 804.

***Dendrophis pictus*** (Gmelin), Nos. 773, 774, 775, 776, 790, 791, 792.

These snakes are colored a uniform dark brown above. The lateral rows of scales and the ventral surface are a uniform light blue. A narrow black line runs along the outer edges of the ventrals. When the scales of the dorsal surface are rubbed off, the underlying skin is a uniform rich, dark blue. These specimens are colored almost exactly like *Dendrelaphis cœruleatus*.

The natives of Polillo call all *Dendrophis* and *Dendrelaphis*, and probably other similar snakes, *calapiin matulin*. *Calapiin* means "poisonous snake," *matulin*, "quick."

***Dendrelaphis cœruleatus*** Griffin, Nos. 760, 761, 762.

***Hurria rhynchops*** (Schneider), No. 788.

***Boiga cynodon*** (Boie), No. 803.

***Boiga angulata*** (Peters), No. 789.

The specimen does not agree exactly in all respects with the description given by Boulenger in the Catalogue of the Snakes in the British Museum, but it probably is one of this species. The stomach of this specimen contains a large lizard (*Calotes*).

*Boiga dendrophila* (Boie), Nos. 805, 806.

*Psammodynastes pulverulentus* (Boie), No. 812.

*Dryophis prasinus* Boie, Nos. 796-802.

*Chrysopelea ornata* (Shaw), Nos. 777-787.

*Hemibungarus* sp. No. 807. Said to be the young of *H. calligaster* (Wiegmann).

*Trimerisurus halieus*<sup>3</sup> sp. nov.

Subcaudals in two rows. Tail but slightly prehensile. Scales between eyes smooth, gular scales smooth. Upper surface of head flat and depressed, snout with distinct canthus. First pair of lower labials in contact behind the symphysial. Scales in 21 rows; ventrals 170-182, anal entire, subcaudals 52-59; 10-13 scales between the supraoculars. Supraocular narrow, often partially or completely broken up. Length of eye not more than half the distance from the eye to the tip of the snout, and in most specimens less. Dimensions of rostral equal, or the width slightly more than the depth. Nasal semidivided; internasals separated by one, two or three scales; upper head scales of moderate size, flat, subimbricate; two or three postoculars: a subocular, in contact with the third and fourth labials, separated from the fifth and sixth (and sometimes from the fourth) by one series of scales. 9-11 upper labials, usually 10; the fifth to the last small; the first not fused with the nasal; the second forming the anterior border of the loreal pit; the third the largest, touching the subocular; the fourth also large, its upper portion occasionally separated as a distinct scale; temporal scales smooth and large, scales of body distinctly but not strongly keeled, lateral rows and scales of tail smooth.

The back and sides are dark blue to brownish-purple, either uniform or crossed by irregular dull, reddish-brown bars. The ventral surface is a light shade of the body color, generally bluish. The posterior border of each ventral scale is more lightly colored, thus forming an alternating series of light and dark transverse bands which correspond to the ventral scales. There are no lateral stripes as in *T. gramineus* and *T. flavomaculatus*. The tail is colored like the body, never red.

<sup>3</sup> ἄλιευς, a fisherman.

*List of specimens of Trimerisurus haliens sp. nov.*

Museum.	Number.	Sex.	Locality.	When collected.	Collector.	Total length.	Length of tail.	Scale rows.	Anal.	Ventrals.	Subcaudals.	Scales between supracaudals.	Number of upper labials.
						mm.	mm.						
Bureau of Science.	763	Female.	Polillo.	Oct. 1, 1909.	Canonizado.	0.810	0.110	21	1	181	55	10	10
Do	764	do	do	do	do	.830	.120	21	1	181	59	13	11
Do	765	do	do	do	do	.970	.140	21	1	175	54	10	10
Do	766	do	do	do	do	.730	.090	21	1	177	57	11	10
Do	767	do	do	do	do	.650	.090	21	1	178	52	11	11
Do	768	do	do	do	do	1.100	.140	21	1	181	58	13	10
Do	769	do	do	do	do	.900	.110	21	1	181	53	11	10
Do	770	Male.	do	do	do	.740	.100	21	1	170	58	10	10
Do	771	Female.	do	do	do	.820	.110	21	1	182	54	10	10
Do	772	(?)	do	do	do	1.040	.130	21	1	179	55	12	10

The specimens were all collected along the banks of streams or in damp localities.

This snake seems to leave the ground very rarely. When the natives of the islands go at night along the streams to catch mudfish by torch-light, the snakes are commonly seen near the edge of the water, and the fishermen say that they are there for the same purpose as themselves, and for this reason call the snake *mánda-dalág*, which, literally translated, means "the fisher of the *dalág* (or mud-fish)." Sr. Cesario Canonizado captured one specimen which had buried most of its body in the sand close to the water's edge. The place where the snake was lying was partly covered with water, while a few inches away was deeper water in which numerous small fish were swimming about for which the snake appeared to be lying in wait.

On another occasion Canonizado noticed a commotion in the rice near the edge of a paddy. The disturbance was caused by a struggle between a large *Varanus* and a snake of this species. On the approach of Canonizado the *Varanus* ran away, so he could not see which was the attacking party. The snake was easily lassoed, for this species seems to be much more inclined to fight than to retreat from men. When the fishermen, in their night fishing, walk along the water's edge holding their torches ahead of them the snakes frequently strike at the lights, and occasionally the fishermen are bitten with fatal results.

The stomach of No. 764 contained an entire frog. In the intestine of No. 763 were found a few scales, probably of a fish. The intestine of No. 765 contained a large ball of hair of a rat.



## ILLUSTRATIONS.

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PLATE I. *Haplonodon philippinensis* Griffin. sp. nov., natural size.



T. Espinosa, del.

PLATE I.